

U.S. Serial No. 10/059,928
Reply to Office Action of: 04/24/2003
Family Number: P2002J012

Page 9 of 10

REMARKS

Applicants' invention is directed toward forming an active catalyst from a used catalyst. Their procedure requires reducing the hydrocarbon content of the used catalyst, i.e., primarily wax (see page 11, lines 11 and 12) by one of five specific techniques. Then the catalyst is impregnated in a non-oxidizing atmosphere with an ammonium salt solution. After impregnation the material is oxidized in the presence of the impregnating solution. Finally, the oxidized material is reduced to form an active catalyst.

Each of the foregoing features can be found in Applicants' original claims; however, applicants have amended claims 1, 19, 20 and 21 to place them in better form.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by Lapidus. Applicants respectfully traverse that rejection.

The Examiner contends that Lapidus, in treating his catalyst with a metal chelating agent to extract metal from the catalyst would inherently reduce the hydrocarbon content of the catalyst. Such is not so. Lapidus uses either an aqueous solution or a molten wax solution (column 6, line 36) neither of which will dewax a spent catalyst.

Lapidus treats his catalyst with chelating agents that include ammonium salts but he does not do so in a non-oxidizing atmosphere.

Finally, Lapidus does not oxidize the catalyst in the presence of the impregnating solution. Instead Lapidus states an inactive catalyst (column 5, lines 28-32) is treated with chelating solution (column 5, lines 32-36) and after extraction the catalyst is reduced (column 6, lines 39-43).

U.S. Serial No. 10/059,928
Reply to Office Action of: 04/24/2003
Family Number: P2002J012

Page 10 of 10

For the foregoing reasons, Lapidus fails to anticipate applicants' claimed invention.

The Examiner's comments regarding claims 4, 5 to 7, 10, 11 and 16 have been noted; however, even if the Examiner's observations are correct because those claims depend from patentable independent claims, they are clearly allowable.

Applicants submit that the claims are patentable over the cited art and request prompt allowance of their application.

Respectfully submitted,



ESTELLE C. BAKUN
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 35,054
Telephone Number: (908) 730-3635
Facsimile Number: (908) 730-3649

☒ Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.34(a)

ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company
P. O. Box 900
Annandale, New Jersey 08801-0900

Dvorak:kak
7/8/03